



File Code: 2720

Date: May 26, 2006

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT  
REQUESTED

Dear Permit Holder:

Summer is approaching and this will be a busy one. As you have been informed over the last two years, issuance of new 20-year term recreation residence permits is coming up as all of your existing permits expire on December 31, 2008. As part of this process, a formal compliance inspection will be conducted at your cabin this summer. The inspection will include examining the exterior of your cabin, lot and other improvements, the area along the lakefront, if applicable and reviewing your permit file to determine prior approvals of improvements or additions. I'd like to stress some of the more common items that will need to be in compliance prior to a new permit being issued.

a) **Electrical** – Much of the outside electrical wiring is not up to current code. This includes on and off-lot improvements, such as pumphouses, lights or plug-ins that intercept the public Beach Trail and any generator, solar or other alternative power source you may have. In order to ensure that this wiring and power sources are up to code, you will be required to obtain a State Electrical Permit Application. What this will do is initiate an inspection by the State Electrical Inspector. Following are two suggested ways to accomplish this:

- a) If you think your electrical already meets current code, go ahead and obtain the electrical permit application. This will initiate a site review by the State Inspector.
- b) If you know you have electrical that does not meet code, plan to either perform the work yourself or hire an electrician to do the work before you file the inspection permit application. This will save time and perhaps a second visit by the State Inspector.

A permit may be required for the electrical work and to initiate this process, you will need to request the **Application For Home Owner's Electrical Inspection Permit, Form Number EF-300R** and check the applicable block. To initiate the inspection by the State Electrical Inspector, check item 10 – **Requested Inspections**. Following are ways you can obtain the State Electrical Permit application form:

- 1) On-line at: [dbs.Idaho.gov](http://dbs.Idaho.gov). Go into Electrical Bureau, and select Electrical Permits and Inspections.
- 2) Northern Lights, Inc. Office – 421 Chevy Street, Sagle, ID 83860, Phone: (208) 263-5141
- 3) Avista Utilities Office in Sandpoint or Coeur d' Alene, ID Phone: (800) 626-4950 or contact them online at: [www.avistautilities.com](http://www.avistautilities.com)
- 4) Division of Building and Safety Office – 1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814, Phone: (208) 769-1579 or (800) 689-6986



- 5) Contact Dave Peterson, State Electrical Inspector for Bonner County at (208) 443-2231 or [dpeterson@dbs.idaho.gov](mailto:dpeterson@dbs.idaho.gov). Dave is generally in his office 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Filing this permit application will initiate the inspection by the State Inspector. The cost of the base permit is \$40.00 for the first hour plus \$20.00 for each additional half hour required to complete the inspection. Also, if you choose to make the corrections yourself, there could be additional electrical permit fees based on the cost of the work performed. If a contractor does the work, they are responsible for obtaining their own permits.

We are only requiring that the outside electrical be up to current code, however you may want to consider including the interior of your cabin in the inspection at this time as well.

b) **Decks** – Many decks have railings that do not meet code. The railings must be upgraded to the current International Uniform Building Code standard. For clarification, decks over 30 inches in height above the ground level must have a railing at least 36 inches tall. The balusters must be no more than 4 inches apart (a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot go between the balusters, whether constructed vertically or horizontally).

In addition, starting now, the tensioned cable railing system will no longer be allowed on the decks. This type of railing is too industrial in appearance for the recreation residences and is not in keeping with the recommendations from the State Historical Preservation Society's standards for acceptable designs on historic cabins. Those that already have this type of railing will be allowed to keep it until such time the railing needs to be replaced or repaired.

c) **Access Roads** – You may be required to upgrade your road so it is not causing erosion that can potentially reach the lake or cause other resource damage. Recommendations will be made by a hydrologist and may include mitigations such as applying gravel or adding culverts or "open-top" culverts. These recommendations will come from our inspections, however this information may not be available at the same time as your scheduled compliance review. If you share a road with other tract members, you will need to coordinate with your neighbors to accomplish this work.

d) **Colors** – If your cabin does not meet the Standards and Guidelines color schemes, you will be asked to paint or stain at this time. This includes trim, doors, and in some cases, the entire cabin or other outbuildings.

e) **Lot Clean-up** – Although this is an ongoing process, some lots have accumulations of dead trees, brush, debris, old building material, etc. that needs to be removed.

f) **Unauthorized Construction** – Or construction that does not meet the Standards and Guidelines. You may be asked to repair, modify, or even remove buildings or other structures on your lot in order to meet the Standards and Guidelines.

g) **Docks** – Make sure your dock permit is issued in your name (permit holder). You will need to contact the Idaho Department of Lands to do this. Their phone number is (208) 443-2516.

h) **Garbage Cans** – Make sure you do not have outside garbage cans, refrigerators, salt licks or other animal attractants.

i) **Administrative Issues** – I know of a few cases where the permit holder has passed away and the family has not resolved the permit issuance aspect. These situations must be resolved prior to issuance of a new permit.

**Construction Proposals:** Proposals for anything other than compliance issues associated with the issuance of your new term permit or safety issues will most likely **not** be considered at this time. The whole process to consider issuing new permits is the top priority. Since this process will be very involved for the next couple of years, it is unlikely any new construction proposals can be considered until after new permits are issued in 2009.

**Permit Administration and Inspection Schedule:** Debbie Butler continues to act as your permit administrator. She should be the first person you contact for any questions regarding your recreation residence. This includes the compliance review process. ***Formal inspections will not start until mid-June.*** If you want to be present during the formal field inspection, contact Debbie and set up a specific appointment. Please remember, Debbie has 138 compliance inspections to conduct, along with other duties so please allow adequate time for her to respond to your requests. Debbie would like you to be present for the inspection, however at some point she will need to move forward and complete the inspections. Once an inspection has been completed, a copy of it will be provided so you can review what we are requiring of you.

Debbie can be reached at (208) 443-6822 and her e-mail address is [dabutler@fs.fed.us](mailto:dabutler@fs.fed.us). If you contact her by e-mail, be sure to include in the subject line that the message pertains to your recreation residence.

Following are dates Debbie will be out of the office and not available to conduct inspections:

**June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>**

Please take time to read your permit as well as the Recreation Residence Standards and Guidelines. Use a critical eye to determine if your use is allowed. Over the years, some lots have gradually developed more items than allowed, creating a more developed “permanent” appearance. This includes development on the beach and along the public Beach Trail.

Many of you will recognize that the process to issue a new permit has changed considerably since the last term permits were issued in 1988. Please remember, a lot of values and environmental conditions change over the years. Some of these values and conditions are reflected in the formulation of new laws that are designed to protect the public interest in the management of National Forest System lands. There is also a lot more interest in protecting the resources occupied by the recreation residences and an obligation by the agency to see that the use is in compliance with the laws and policies in effect today.

***Please take this process seriously, as compliance is necessary for you to be eligible for a new 20-year term permit.***

Although you will not have to have the compliance items completed until August 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, please do not wait until the last minute. Follow up inspections will need to occur again in 2008 to insure you have completed compliance items from the 2006 inspection before a new term permit will be issued.

Enclosed is a copy of the inspection form that Debbie will be using to record information about your cabin and lot. Some of this information may also come from information in your permit file, as well as information that will need follow-up once you have completed compliance work.

If you have any questions on this process, please contact Debbie Butler at the above listed phone number or e-mail.

Sincerely,

*/Kathy Murphy/*

**KATHY MURPHY**  
District Ranger

Cc: SO  
Enclosure